Interview of Frank Camper regarding terrorist activities

1866 DR. H.P. SHARMA :
SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the interview given by Mr. Frank Camper, who runs a mercenary school in the United States, to the Illustrated Weekly of India with regard to the circumstances of the explosion of the Air India Jet Kanishka and other terrorist activities ;

(b) if so, what were the details of his interview; and

(c) how far his statements made in the interview were correct and what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the interview, Frank Camper claims to have warned the Indian Consulate in New York several times about the Sikh terrorist's intention to blow up Air India planes. He also claims to have passed on information to FBI relating to extremist's plan to assassinate the Indian Prime Minister and Haryana Chief Minister Shri Bhajan Lal, sabotage of railway system and nuclear installation creating chaos and instability in India, and blowing up of aircraft.

(c) No such warning has been given to the Indian Consulate in New York at any time. Frank Camper has himself stated that he had no specific information that Air India 182 or any other Air India Plane was going to be hit, during an interview on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation at 7-28 P.M. on September 10, 1985.

The details of the mercenary training school in Alabama run by Frank Camper were discussed extensively in the Rajya Sabha. A statement was also made by the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs in response to a Calling Attention Notice in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday the 25th July, 1985. Government have nothing further to add.

US offer of military ties with India

1867. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that US has offered to develop close military ties with India ;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard stating the fields in which such ties have been sought by US; and

(c) what action the Government of India have taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Seeking of conversion kits of boeing 707 by Pakistan

1868. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in the Hindustan Times of the 2nd October, 1985 regarding Pakistan's seeking conversion kits to make Boeing 707 passenger aircraft, presently being

operated by Pakistan on the International Airlines, into flight refuelling tankers which would enable Pakistan to threaten targets all over India ; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) Government have seen the press report in question.

(b) Government continues to maintain a strong vigil over all development having a bearing on the country's security .

Acquisition of missiles tracking technology from Japan

1869. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Japan has developed new sophisiticated missile-tracking technology regarding Surface to Air Missiles (SAM) which it is providing to US;

(b) whether Government have assessed the benefits of such technology for India's defence requirements ; and

(c) whether Government propose to acquire similar technology from Japan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) Japan, as per information available in open literature, has developed/is developing missile tracking technology. The information regarding their contract with USA is not known.

(b) Yes, Sir. An assessment of technology required for such systems has been made and steps have been taken to develop such technology.

(c) No, Sir.

Accidents involing Indian Air Force aircraft

1870. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of accidents involving Indian Air Force planes during the last three years, year-wise till date ;

(b) what is the number of casualties and the type of aircraft involved in each of the accidents ;

(c) in what manner the facilities available for training of the Indian Air Force personnel for operation and maintenance of the new generation of aircraft compare with those available for Britain's Royal Air Force and the US Air Force ; and

(d) what measures have been taken by Government to remove the deficiencies, if any, in the fields of operating and maintaining the sophisticated aircrafts to minimise the number of accidents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) and (b) It would not be in the public interest to disclose this information.

(c) Training requirements of the IAF's air/ground crew are being adequately catered for. The facilities available in the Royal Air Force and the U.S. Air Force would not necessarily suit four purposes.

(d) The Air Marshal A La Fontaine Committee on Flight Safety recommended a number of measures to improve training in the IAF. Most of its recommendations have been implemented. Action to finalise decisions on its remainig recommendations is in hand.